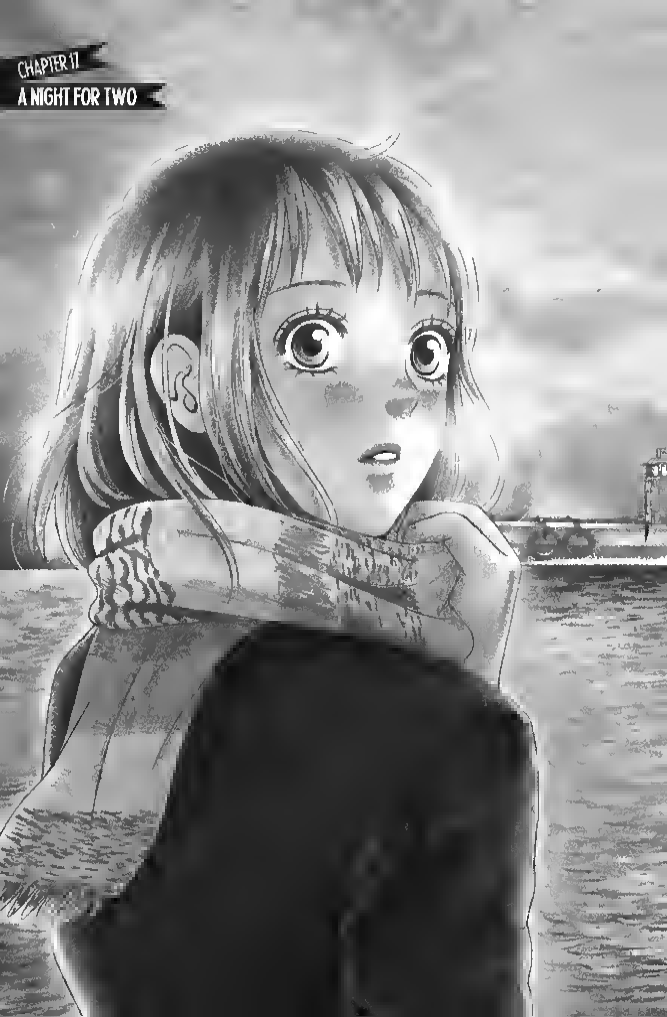
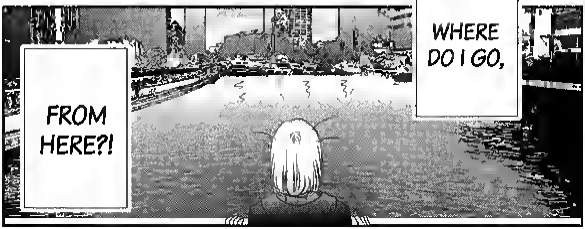
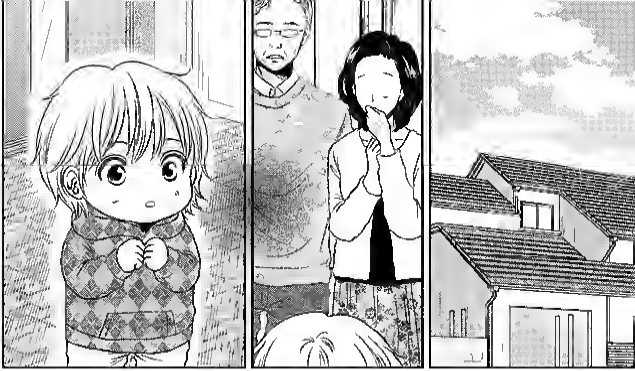

CHAPTER 17
A NIGHT FOR TWO

I COULDN'T SLEEP AT ALL...
BUT I TOTALLY WASN'T PREPARED...
IN THE END I HAD TO TAKE THE NIGHT BUS, SINCE THE SHINKANSEN WAS TOO EXPENSIVE ...

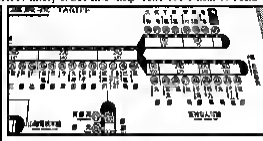


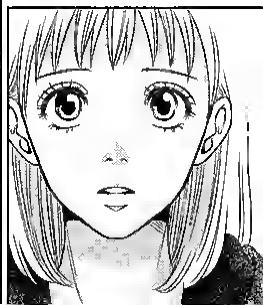
BAMBI and DHOLE
バンビ&ドール



T/N: Most likely a bus line map. Text too small to read

"HE USED TO GO TO SCHOOL IN UMEDA BUT..."
"THEY ARE ACTUALLY FROM THE HYOGO PREFECTURE. THEIR HOMETOWN IS IN BETWEEN THE CITIES OF ASHIYA AND AMAGASAKI."

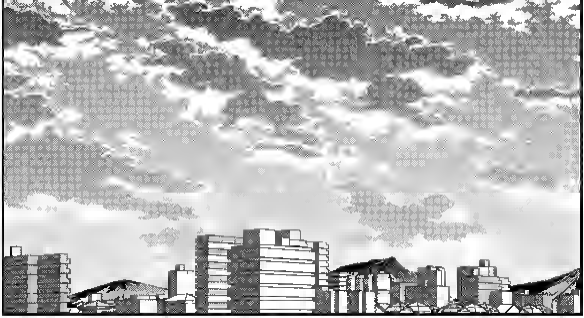


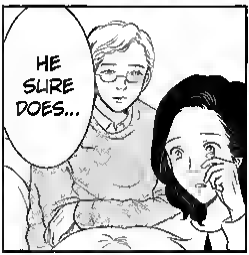


IS IT POSSIBLE THAT HE WENT OVER TO SACHI-SAN'S HOME?
HIS PARENTS SAID THEY WOULD DISINHERIT HIM IF HE DECIDED TO RUN AWAY, AND HE ENDED UP RUNNING AWAY, SO THERE'S NO WAY HE WENT BACK HOME...
I CERTAINLY WOULD NOT EXPECT HIM TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY AND BRING HIM OVER THERE BUT...
ANYWAY, I'VE NO IDEA WHERE SAT-CHAN'S HOME IS...
HMM, I'M NOT SURE...
HE WAS SO ANGRY AND KEPT REPEATING HE WOULD NEVER GIVE RAICHI AWAY...
STOP IT! STOP IT!
DON'T EVEN THINK OF SUCH THINGS!!!
"WE'RE GOING TO SEE SACHI" ...IS WHAT HE SAID.
DON'T TELL ME HE'S LOST IT AND ACTUALLY WENT TO THEIR HOMETOWN FOR A DOUBLE SUICIDE...

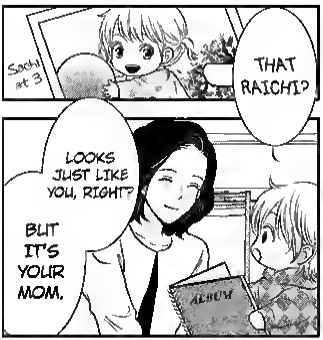
500,200HI
THAT MANY ...?!
"WE'RE GOING TO SEE SACHI".
COULD IT BE...
IT WOULD TAKE MUCH MORE THAN 3 DAYS TO GO AROUND THEM ALL...
THAT'S BAD...
THINK!
THINK,

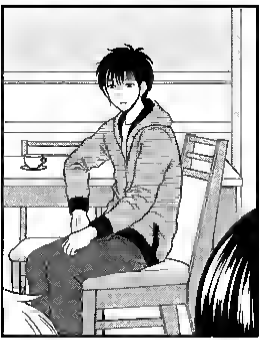
"TOBE-SAN,"
"IF YOU FIND THOSE BOYS, WOULD YOU PLEASE CONTACT ME AND LET ME KNOW?"
"OF COURSE!"
"IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO THEM..."
"I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO FACE SAT-CHAN..."




HE SURE DOES...

HE REALLY LOOKS LIKE SACHI...
DOESN'T HE, DARLING?
ALBUM


Sachi at 3
THAT RAICHI?
LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU, RIGHT?
BUT IT'S YOUR MOM.
ALBUM



DADA! IT'S MAMA!
MY MAMA!
THE OTHER DAY WE SENT YOU WHAT MUST HAVE SEEMED LIKE A RATHER IMPROMPTU LETTER...
BUT WE'VE ACTUALLY BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT FOR A LONG TIME
WHAT'S THAT?
A COW
HAVE YOU BEEN IN TOKYO ALL THIS TIME, TETSU-KUN?
YES...
WE'VE BEEN LIVING TOGETHER WITH MY GRAND-MOTHER
SO THAT'S HOW IT'S BEEN...

DADA, THIS HOUSE IS BIG!
WAIT RAICHI, DON'T JUST...
OH! IT'S OK, DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN PLAY AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE, RAICHI-KUN.

TETSU-KUN...
I HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU.

I APOL-OGIZE..

NO... THAT'S NOT IT.

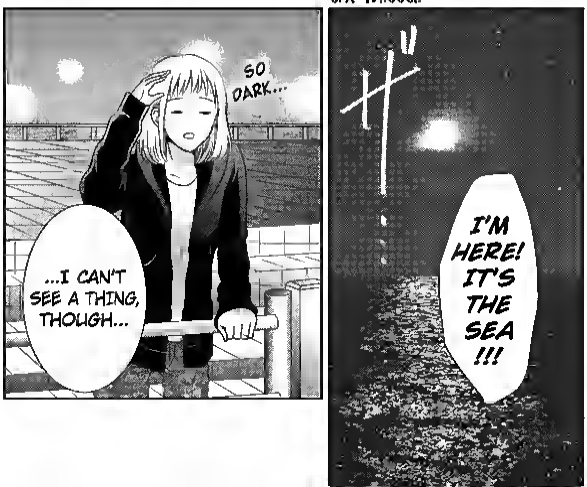
THE REASON I CAME HERE WAS TO TELL YOU THAT..
IF IT'S ABOUT THE DNA TEST, I'M VERY SORRY, BUT...

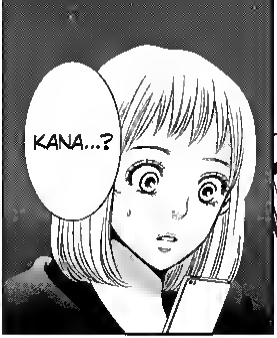
ALONE IN THIS PLACE?
WHAT AM I DOING,
HUH...
I'M TIRED...
MY FEET HURT...
I REALLY WISH I COULD TALK TO MY FRIENDS, BUT...
AT TIMES LIKE THIS,
ARGH! STOP CRYING!
IT WAS YOUR OWN DECISION TO COME HERE!
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER SINCE I CAN'T TELL THEM WHAT'S HAPPENING ANYWAY...
I HAVE DISTANCED MYSELF FROM THEM AND IT'S MY OWN FAULT

THE SEA...
THAT WOULD BE KOBE...

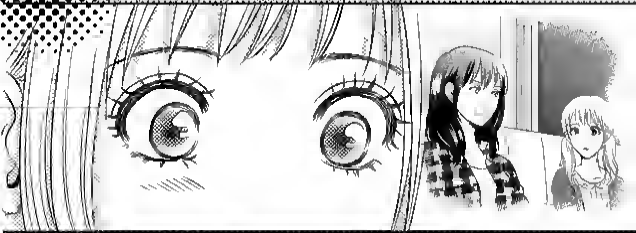
A PLACE TO BE...
WITH THE PERSON YOU LOVE.

PORT STAY HOTEL


SFX WHOOSH
SO DARK...
...I CAN'T SEE A THING, THOUGH...
I'M HERE! IT'S THE SEA !!!



HEY, SO, I WASN'T GOING TO SAY ANYTHING BUT, LAST TIME AFTER WE TALKED AT THE RESTAURANT, AKARI CRIED. YOU SEE. SHE SAID THAT SHE COULDN'T MAKE HERSELF HATE YOU, BAMBI. BUT SHE'D COME TO HATE HERSELF INSTEAD...

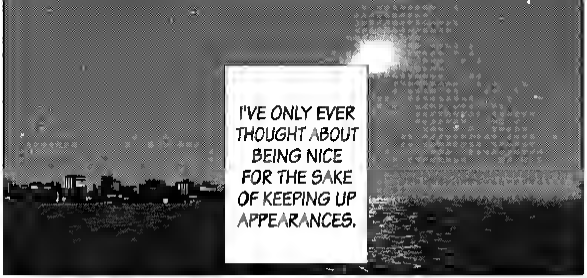


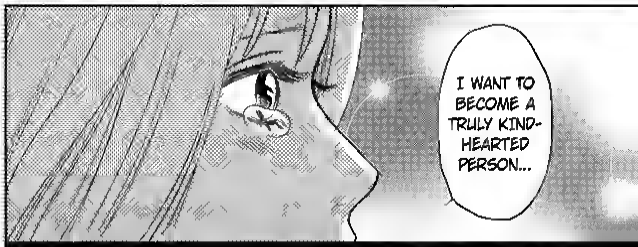
I'VE KNOWN AKARI SINCE WE WERE CHILDREN. SHE MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT ONCE SHE'S COME TO CARE FOR YOU AS A FRIEND, SHE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WILL LOVE YOU A GREAT DEAL.

I LOVE AKARI VERY MUCH... BUT EVEN SO. I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY, BUT I REALLY WANT TO SUPPORT YOU, BAMBI. I FEEL LIKE THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

BECAUSE BAMBI, I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE TRYING YOUR BEST TO CHANGE.

AKARI THINKS SO, TOO. IF THINGS HADN'T TURNED OUT LIKE THIS, AKARI WOULD'VE ACTUALLY BEEN YOUR NUMBER ONE SUPPORTER.
HAVE I EVER BEEN NICE TO SOMEONE UNCONDITIONALLY,
THE WAY NAKAZAWA-KUN, AKARI AND KANA HAVE BEEN TO ME?



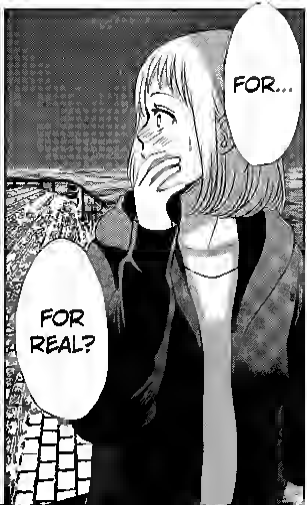


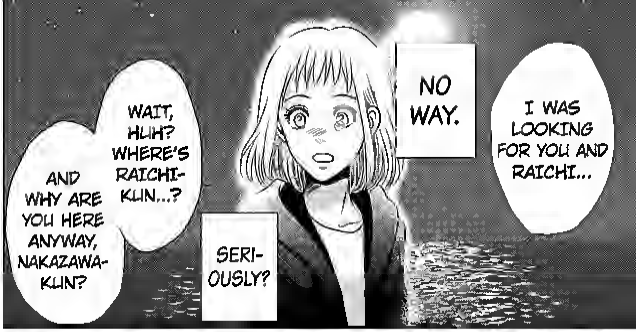
SO PLEASE GOD,

LET ME FIND HIM.

FOR GOOD-NESS' SAKE!
WHERE ARE YOU ?!
NAKAZAWA TETSU, YOU IDIOT!
...I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

...WH...


FOR...
FOR REAL?


I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU AND RAICHI...
NO WAY.
SERI-OUSLY?
WAIT, HUH? WHERE'S RAICHI-KUN...?
AND WHY ARE YOU HERE ANYWAY, NAKAZAWA-KUN?

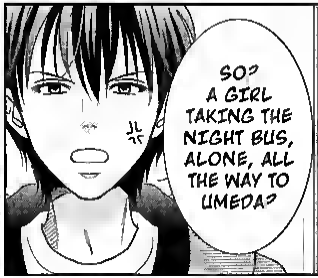
THAT IS MY LINE!
WHO DO YOU THINK IS REALLY THE IDIOT HERE?!
THIS IS KOBE, YOU KNOW?!
WELL, IT'S JUST YOUR GRAND-MOTHER WAS SO WORRIED ...

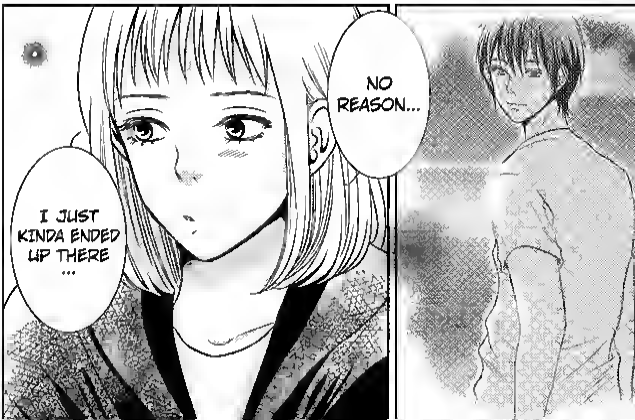
...SERI-OUSLY...
...
ESQUIRE
CASIO

YES...
YES...
OF COURSE I'LL GIVE YOU BACK THE MONEY
YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW, I'M MAKING SURE TO THINK ABOUT RAICHI, TOO
WE'LL BE BACK THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, SO IT'S FINE.
YEAH.
YEAH.
CLATTER
.....

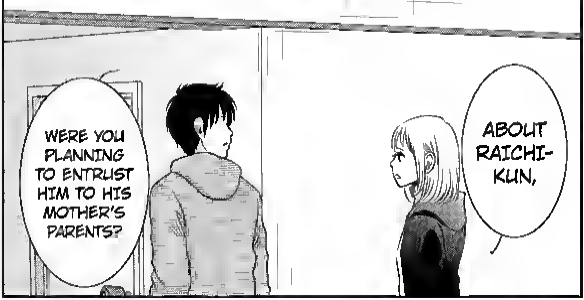
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU AND RAICHI ...
I HEARD THAT EARLIER!
SCARY!

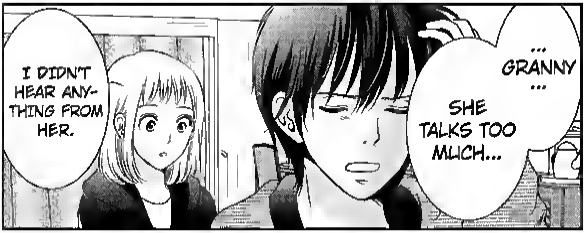
SPENDING THE WHOLE DAY, RANDOMLY LOOKING FOR ME AND RAICHI SINCE MORNING?
WHY WERE YOU OVER THERE?

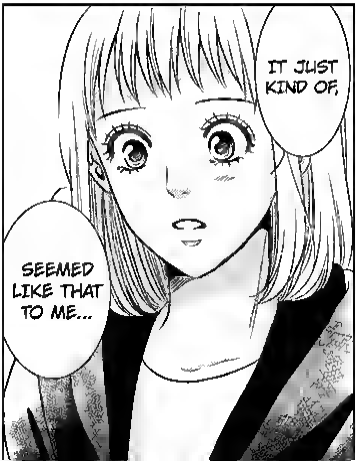

SO? A GIRL TAKING THE NIGHT BUS, ALONE, ALL THE WAY TO UMEDA?


NO REASON...
I JUST KINDA ENDED UP THERE ...

...SORRYY...
DAD SWITCH ON
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING ON DOING IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU?
SERI-OUSLY, A GIRL ON HER OWN LATE AT NIGHT
YOU SLEEP HERE.
ALL THE HOTELS AROUND, INCLUD-ING THIS ONE, ARE OCCUPIED, SO I'M GONNA STAY IN A MANGA CAFÉ TONIGHT
ANYWAY,
?
NAKAZAWA-KUN.


ABOUT RAICHI-KUN,
WERE YOU PLANNING TO ENTRUST HIM TO HIS MOTHER'S PARENTS?


... GRANNY ...
SHE TALKS TOO MUCH...
I DIDN'T HEAR ANY-THING FROM HER.


IT JUST KIND OF,
SEEMED LIKE THAT TO ME...

HOW...?

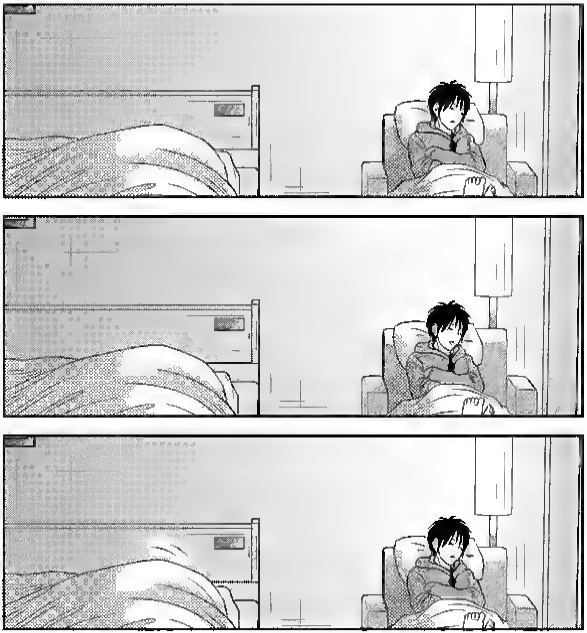
...TODAY,
WHEN I BROUGHT RAICHI TO THEIR HOUSE, HE LOOKED SO MUCH LIKE SACHI WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD,
THAT THEY CRIED THE INSTANT THEY SAW HIM...
"TETSU-KUN,"
"I HAVE A REQUEST."
"PLEASE LET US SPEND TIME WITH RAICHI."
"JUST FOR THIS SHORT BREAK,"
"BYE BYE DADA!"

MAYBE RAICHI...
WOULD BE HAPPIER OVER THERE.
...YOU REALLY THINK SO?
I WANT TO PRIORITIZE RAICHI'S HAPPINESS.
BUT...
STAGGER
...SHALL WE SLEEP?

TIRED... SLEEP...
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN...
I'M TIRED.
EEEH ?!
SLEEP?!
I'M REALLY TIRED NOW, GO OUTSIDE.
IDIOT. SO PERVERTED.
I'M TAKING THE SOFA.
THAT'S BAD!!!
No!
WAIT, STOP RIGHT THERE! A BOY AND A GIRL IN THE SAME BED IS DEFINITELY GOING TOO FAR!
IS THAT REALLY THE BOY'S LINE ...?
AND DON'T TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ME!

ANYWAY, SHOWER FOR NOW...
NO WAY...
NO WAY...
WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO? WHAT DO I DO? WHAT'S WITH THIS HUGE TURN OF EVENTS?!
BORROWING THIS...
HEY, LIM.
I CAN SLEEP OVER THERE SO YOU SHOULD
YOU'LL GET SORE..
STOP BOTHERING ME I TOLD YOU IT'S FINE
GO TO SLEEP ALREADY
.....

I FEEL BAD...
MY HEART IS SO LOUD,
THAT I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING ELSE IN THE ROOM.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SLEEP.
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
SQUEEZE


...TETSU.

WILL YOU...
...GET MAD...
...IF I CALL YOU THAT?
ドクン
SFX: BA-DUM!
CREAK
STARTLE

SQUEEZE...
.....
SORRY...
...ONE MORE TIME...
EH...?

COULD YOU SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME?
...
...“TETSU”?
...IT'S SO SIMILAR
WHAT?
I DIDN'T REALIZE BEFORE BECAUSE OF THE ACCENT..
BUT IT STRUCK ME JUST NOW WHEN YOU SAID TETSU.

T/N: Tetsu is from Kansai and always speaks with a strong dialect accent from there (so did Sasha).

SACHI'S VOICE AND YOURS...
ARE VERY SIMILAR.
...WE'RE FATHER AND SON,
BUT RAICHI AND I...
AREN'T SIMILAR AT ALL...
BA-DUMP
...WHAT?
DON'T TELL ME...

...GRANDMA SAID ONLY THE MOTHER KNOWS FOR SURE.
"TETSU,"
"PROTECT..."
...EVEN AS A MAN, I KNOW...
SO SHE SAID, BUT...
"...RAICHI."
RAICHI IS...
...MY SON.

THIS LITTLE GUY...
...FOR WHOM SACHI GAVE UP HER LIFE, IS MY SON!
YEAH...
MOTHER...
TO MY MOTHER WHO GAVE ME UP...
YEAH...

WERE YOU A LITTLE HAPPY?
THAT MOMENT WHEN YOU GAVE BIRTH TO ME,
DID YOU PUT YOUR LIFE AT RISK FOR ME?
FATHER,
I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR FACE,
THEN WOULD YOU,
BUT IF YOU WERE TO REMEMBER ME,
WHEREVER YOU'RE AT.

CRY FOR ME LIKE THIS WHEN YOU THINK OF ME?
TETSU...
TETSU...
TETSU!

THE TEARS OF THE PERSON I LOVE...
HAVE GENTLY UNTIED THE ROPES
BOUND AROUND THE HEAVIEST BURDEN THAT I'VE BEEN CARRYING AROUND.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE IRONIC THAN THIS.
NAKAZAWA-KUN
YOU CAN SLEEP NOW.
STILL, IT'S THE FIRST TIME, SINCE I WAS BORN,
THAT I'VE EVER FRAYED FOR SOMEONE'S HAPPINESS WITH ALL MY HEART.
I'M HERE FOR YOU...

CHIRP
PORT STAY HOTEL
CHIRP
SPACED OUT...
ZZZ

...HNN ...?
NOT LOOK-ING
NOOO OOOOO OOOOO OOOO!
バッチーン
SFX: SLAP!

SHEESH, YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME
SUDDENLY EXPOSING YOURSELF
I WAS NOT!!!
STOP SAYING THAT!!!
I WANNA DIE!!!
OKAY OKAY
ARE YOU...
...GOING HOME TODAY?

...UHH, THERE'S THAT,
I MEAN ...

NOW THAT I KNOW YOU'RE SAFE...
YEAH, I GUESS SO...

DO YOU WANT TO GO ON A DATE?
CHAPTER 17 / END.

Impatient
scans
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TRANSLATOR: SHARU
CLEANER: PLUMJUCIE
REDRAWER: EMMAVZ
TYPESETTER: NORA, TANS
QC: PLUMJUCIE, SHADOWSLAYER

TIME FOR ADVENTURE!